

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SANTIA 03604 141807Z

46

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 AID-20 PC-04 OC-06 OMB-01 NIC-01 SCS-03

SCA-01 A-01 NEA-10 OPR-02 SY-10 USSS-00 EB-11 EUR-25

TRSE-00 RSR-01 /170 W

----- 085204

O R 141548Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5182

INFO DOD/DIA

USCINCSO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTIAGO 3604

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI PINT PINS MILI ELAB

SUBJ: BLACKOUT CAUSES NERVOUSNESS

REF: SANTIAGO 3593

1. SUMMARY. ELECTRICITY FAILURE EVENING AUG 13, APPARENTLY CAUSED BY DYNAMITING OF KEY TRANSMISSION TOWERS, BLACKED-OUT MOST OF CENTRAL CHILE INCLUDING SANTIAGO AND VALPARAISO AREAS FOR UP TO THREE HOURS. FAILURE OCCURRED AS PRES. ALLENDE WAS ADDRESSING NATION ON TRUCK STRIKE AND RELATED TERRORISM AND SAYING STRONG MEASURES WOULD BE TAKEN AGAINST BOTH. STATUS OF NATIONAL TRUCK INTERVENTOR AND UNDER SEC TRANSPORTATION JAIME FAIVOVICH REMAINS UNCLEAR; STRIKERS REFUSE FURTHER TALKS WITH GOVT UNTIL HE IS FIRED. MIR AND NAVY HAVE TRADED ANGRY DENUCIATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. ELECTRICITY FAILURE BEGINNING 2215 HOURS AUG 13 CAUSED
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SANTIA 03604 141807Z

BLACKOUT IN CENTRAL CHILE RANGING FROM RANCAGUA TO LA SERENA

AND INCLUDING CITIES OF SANTIAGO AND VALPARAISO. INCIDENT SPARKED CONFUSION AND A BAD CASE OF JITTERS IN ALREADY NERVOUS POPULACE. ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL GOVT STATEMENT, BLACKOUT DUE TO DYNAMITING OF TRANSMISSION TOWERS IN FOUR KEY LOCATIONS, ALLEGEDLY BY RIGHT-WING TERRORISTS. PRES ALLENDE ISSUED TWO CALLS FOR CALM, AND SECURITY MEASURES AROUND LA MONEDA WERE INTENSIFIED. MANY AREAS WERE ALSO WITHOUT WATER DUE TO SHUTDOWN OF ELECTRIC PUMPS. SERVICE WAS RESTORED IN BETWEEN 30 MINUTES AND THREE HOURS, DEPENDING ON LOCATION.

3. BLACKOUT OCCURRED AS ALLENDE WAS ADDRESSING NATION ON TRUCKERS STRIKE AND TERRORISM. IN HIS SPEECH, PRES CITED GRAVE DAMAGE TO CHILEAN ECONOMY CAUSED BY STRIKE AND VOWED TO TAKE STERN MEASURES AGAINST STRIKE-RELATED VIOLENCE AND TERRORISM, WHICH HE BLAMED ON TRUCKERS AND PATRIA Y LIBERTAD. CHARGIN PYL SPECIFICALLY WITH NAVAL AIDE ARAYS'S DEATH, ALLENDE ALSO DENOUNCED MIR ATTACKS AND SUBVERSION DIRECTED AGAINST MILITARY. PRIOR TO ALLENDE'S SPEECH, PYL ISSUED DECLARATION THAT ITS TEMPORARY TRUCE IS OVER AND THAT IT WILL RESUME ATTACK AGAINST "MARXIST ENEMIES OF CHILE." MINJUSTICE INSUNZA HAD PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED GOVT WILL PRESS WITH RENEWED VIGOR PENDING COURT CASES AGAINST PYL AND NATIONAL PARTY.

4. STATUS OF UNDERSEC TRANSPORTATION JIAME FAIVOVICH STILL UNCLEAR. IN FACE OF CONFLICTING REPORTS ON WHETHER HE IS STILL NATIONAL TRUCK INTERVENTOR (REFTEL), LAND TRANSPORT CONFEDERATION ISSUED STATEMENT REJECTING ANY FURTHER TALKS WITH GOVT UNTIL FAIVOVICH IS REMOVED FROM ALL TRANSPORT FUNCTIONS. COMMUNIST EL SIGLO REPORTED, MEANWHILE, THAT FAIVOVICH DENIED HE HAD AUTHORIZED STATEMENT ISSUED BY UNDERSEC TRANSPORTATION PRESS OFFICE WHICH REPORTED HIS "CONFIRMATION" AS INTERVENTOR. SHORTLY BEFORE HIS SPEECH (ABOVE), ALLENDE MET ALONE WITH THREE MILITARY MINISTERS; FAIVOVICH REPORTEDLY WAITED OUTSIDE.

5. IN OTHER STRIKE DEVELOPMENTS, MERCHANTS IN SIX CENTRAL AND FOUR SOUTHERN PROVINCES CLOSED THEIR DOORS FOR ONE-DAY STRIKE AUG 13; FORMER WERE PROTESTING PRESSURES ON SHOPKEEPERS IN TALCA TO JOIN JAPS AND LATTER AGAINST GOVT "REPRESSIVE" MEASURES AGAINST TRUCKERS. VALPARAISO DOCTORS ASKED NATIONAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 SANTIAGO 03604 141807Z

MEDICAL ASSOCIATION TO CONSIDER CALLING NATIONWIDE DOCTORS STRIKE. ALLENDE ASKED MINISTRY OF DEFENSE TO PREPARE STUDY OF STRIKE SITUATION, WHILE VILARIN ASKED CONTROLLER GENERAL TO REJECT ANY GOVT BACK-TO-WORK ORDER. NAMES OF MILITARY INTERVENTORS IN TRUCK STRIKE NOT YET OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED.

6. MIR AND NAVY EXCHANGED ANGRY STATEMENTS. MIR CLAIMED SOME OF THOSE DETAINED ON SUBVERSION CHARGES IN TALCAHUANO

HAD BEEN TORTURED, AND VOWED TO CONTINUE DENOUNCING FASCIST OFFICERS AND GOPISTA ACTIVITIES IN NAVY. OFFICIAL NAVY STATEMENT DESCRIBED MIR AS A BUNCH OF "IRRESPONSIBLE ADVENTURERS" AND STATED NAVY WILL CONTINUE TO FULFILL ITS ROLE UNDER THE CONSTITUTION. INDEPENDENT LA TERCERA HEADLINED "NAVY DECLARES WAR ON MIR."

7. IN EL MERCURIO INTERVIEW, SENATE PRES EDUARDO FREI NOTED THAT EVENTS WILL SHOW WHETHER MILITARY MINISTERS CAN FORCE CHANGE IN GOVT POLICIES, BUT SO FAR IT APPEARED TO HIM THAT MILITARY HAD BEEN INSNARED BY ALLENDE AND UP WHICH RETAIN THE REAL POWER.

8. NAVY PROSECUTOR ANNOUNCED THREE MORE RIGHTISTS HAVE BEEN FORMALLY CHARGED IN ARAYA CASE, BRINGING TOTAL TO SEVEN PERSONS (SIX RIGHTISTS AND RIQUELME). FOUR OTHERS WERE ARRESTED, ONE OF WHOM WAS SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED AND THE TOTHER THREE PRESUMABLY ARE STILL UNDERGOING PRELIMINARY INTERROGATION.
DAVIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SABOTAGE, ELECTRIC POWER PLANTS, LABOR STRIKES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SANTIA03604
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730838/aaaabcj.tel
Line Count: 133
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SANTIAGO 3593
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <31-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BLACKOUT CAUSES NERVOUSNESS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, ELAB, CI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005